CLAIM AMENDMENTS

67. (Currently amended) In a message queuing network comprising a first message queuing machine and a second message queuing machine, a method for sending a self-descriptive dictionary object from a sending application to a recipient application, the method comprising the steps of:

the sending application passing the dictionary object to the first message queuing machine to deliver to the second message queuing machine;

the first message queuing machine invoking a method of the dictionary object to serialize the dictionary object;

the first message queuing machine sending the serialized dictionary object in a message object to the second message queuing machine;

the second message queuing machine receiving the message object and instantiating and loading the serialized dictionary object into an unserialized dictionary object;

the second message queuing machine passing the unserialized dictionary object to the recipient application;

the recipient application identifying a data element in the unserialized dictionary object received from the second message queuing machine having a data type not recognized by the recipient application; and

the recipient application sending a query to the first message queuing machine to learn about said data type.

68. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 67, wherein the query sent by the recipient application is directed to the sending application.

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69. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 67, wherein the dictionary object includes a lookup method for finding a specified dictionary element in a dictionary contained in the dictionary object and a enumerate method for obtaining a next dictionary element from a given position in the dictionary.

70. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 67, further including the step of applying late binding by the recipient application to reference data elements in the unserialized dictionary object.

71. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 67, further including the steps of:

determining, by a message queuing server of the first message queuing machine, whether the message object supports persistence;

determining, by the message queuing server, a size of the message object and creating a buffer for persistent storage of the message object.

72. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps in a message queuing network comprising a first message queuing machine and a second message queuing machine for sending a self-descriptive dictionary object from a sending application to a recipient application, the steps comprising:

the sending application passing the dictionary object to the first message queuing machine to deliver to the second message queuing machine;

the first message queuing machine invoking a method of the dictionary object to serialize the dictionary object;

the first message queuing machine sending the serialized dictionary object in a message object to the second message queuing machine;

the second message queuing machine receiving the message object and instantiating and loading the serialized dictionary object into an unserialized dictionary object;

the second message queuing machine passing the unserialized dictionary object to the recipient application;

the recipient application identifying a data element in the unserialized dictionary object received from the second message queuing machine having a data type not recognized by the recipient application; and

the recipient application sending a query to the first message queuing machine to learn about said data type.

73. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium as in claim 72, wherein the query sent by the recipient application is directed to the sending application.

74. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium as in claim 72, wherein the dictionary object includes a lookup method for finding a specified dictionary element in a dictionary contained in the dictionary object and a enumerate method for obtaining a next dictionary element from a given position in the dictionary.